

BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

R. C. WEBSTER

M.S., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

E. P. McGLYNN


C91B, M31A

Senior Sanitary Inspector



*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Dept.
Darwen*



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BOROUGH OF DARWEN

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary
Administration
OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

By R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

and E. P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

1955-56

*MR COUNCILLOR W. CONROY, J.P. MAYOR

Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR MRS. M. M. MEGGITT

Vice-Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR T. V. KEELAN

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Coun. T. FITZGERALD	*Coun. T. WINTERBOTTOM

CHARLES COUTTS BYERS, TOWN CLERK.

* Members of the Public Health Sub-Committee.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	{	R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire		
County Council		
Senior Sanitary Inspector	{	EDMUND P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp. (Cert.), M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods		
Director of Public Cleansing		
District Sanitary Inspectors	{	J. HANDBY, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.S.I.A., Inter C.I.S. (Appointed 12/3/56).
		H. RAMSBOTTOM, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.S.I.A.
		P. H. WATSON, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., (Cert.) Insp. Meat and Other Foods. (Resigned 31/8/55). (Re-appointed 1/4/56).
Sanitary Inspector's Articled Pupil	{	K. BURY.
Chief Clerk		J. BOLTON.
Clerical Staff	{	A. ALSTON.
		R. C. DAVIDSON.
		Mrs. O. B. PARRY.
		F. TOWNLEY.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic or Centre.	Situation.	Day and Time.	By whom provided.
Child Welfare.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Child Welfare.	Greenfield Institute.	Tuesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Wednesday, 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays. 9-30 a.m. (Specialist).	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal Relaxation.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ultra-Violet Light.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday, 2 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Clinics.	Civic Health Centre.	Minor Ailments. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Tuesday and Friday, 2 p.m., by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ophthalmic.	Civic Health Centre.	by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Orthopædic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Chiropodist.	Civic Health Centre.	Thursday, 9-30 a.m., By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.	Health Department, Victoria Street, Blackburn.	Alternate Tuesdays by appointment.	Blackburn Corporation.
Cardiac Clinic for Schoolchildren.	Tullyallan Open Air School, Darwen.	By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	40, Duke Street, Blackburn.	Thursday, 9-15 a.m. by appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Males — Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Females — Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis.	Civic Health Centre.	By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.



CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,

DARWEN.

July, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1955.

Once again I am happy to say that infant mortality touched a new record low level at 23 per 1,000 live births, and this was associated with by far the lowest stillbirth rate record for the town.

Although two maternal deaths unfortunately occurred, these were due to exceptional causes.

The incidence of infectious disease was generally low, but measles was somewhat unexpectedly prevalent. No deaths occurred from the notifiable infectious diseases. Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred; one outbreak caused 29 cases and was due to *Salmonella* in meat pies. The larger outbreaks produced 294 cases mainly among school children, but also including a few adults; no definite organism was incriminated, but the clinical features suggested a toxin produced by *staphylococcus* was responsible. Mild Sonne dysentery was somewhat widespread, but this disease at present is troublesome rather than dangerous. Five cases of paralytic poliomyelitis and two of the non-paralytic type occurred. As is usual, no connection between these cases could be traced.

On the whole, then, this was a satisfactory year of happy and comparatively uneventful work for the Department. I thank all the Staff for their valuable help, and the Committee for their lively interest and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PART I.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

BY

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Summary of Statistics and Social Conditions.

1955

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Geographical Position ...	Lat. 53° 41' 25" N. Lon. 2° 28' 32" W.
Elevation above sea level	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation...	Boulder clay and sand, over coal measures.
Area (in acres)	5,959
Population—Census, 1951	30,827
Population — Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate for 1955	30,210
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census, 1951	10,634
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1955	10,222
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1951	10,797
Rateable Value	£190,501
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£790

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

Of a total of 14,211 insured adult persons, the average per cent. unemployed was 1.28. The corresponding figures for 1954 were:—Insured adult persons, 14,023; Average per cent. unemployed was 1.36.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	203 ... 212 ...	415	Birth-rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate	8 ... 10 ...	18	estimated home
				population mid-1955:
	Total	211 ... 222 ...	433	Crude
				Adjusted ..
STILLBIRTHS:	Legitimate	3 ... Nil ...	3	Rate per 1,000 total
	Illegitimate	Nil ... Nil ...	Nil	
	Total	3 ... Nil ...	3	
DEATHS:				Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated home
				population mid-1955:
				Crude
				Adjusted ..
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION.	Respiratory T.B.			0.03
	Malignant Neoplasms, etc.			2.68
MATERNAL MORTALITY.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			2
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births			4.59

**INFANTILE
MORTALITY.**
(Infants under
the age of
1 year.)

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate Infants ...	6 ...	4 ...	10	—
Illegitimate Infants ..	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil	—
Total Deaths	6 ...	4 ..	10	23

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year.	Darwen.	England and Wales.
1946	34	43
1947	39	41
1948	31	34
1949	29	32
1950	36	29.8
1951	24	29.6
1952	34	27.6
1953	24	26.8
1954	28	25.5
1955	23	24.9

**OTHER
INFANT
DEATHS.**

	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	Nil	0.000
Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages)	Nil	0.000
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	Nil	0.000

**NEO-NATAL
MORTALITY.**

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	7
Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births	16

Births.—The number of live births registered during the year was 433, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 15.6 per 1,000. The trend of this rate over the past ten years, in comparison with the rate for England and Wales, is shown in the following table—

Year.	DARWEN.				ENGLAND AND WALES.	
	No. of Births.			Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000	
	Male.	Female.	Total.			
1946	265	230	495	16.5	19.1	
1947	303	274	577	19.0	20.5	
1948	257	244	501	16.2	17.9	
1949	213	238	451	14.6	16.7	
1950	220	194	414	14.1	15.8	
1951	235	214	449	15.5	15.5	
1952	221	190	411	14.2	15.3	
1953	223	240	463	16.1	15.5	
1954	212	188	400	14.4	15.2	
1955	211	222	433	15.6	15.0	

Illegitimate Births.—The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Rate per cent. of Live Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year.	Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births
1946	30	6.45	1	33
1947	21	3.64	Nil	Nil
1948	15	3.00	1	66
1949	18	3.99	Nil	Nil
1950	19	4.58	Nil	Nil
1951	17	3.76	1	58
1952	17	4.13	Nil	Nil
1953	16	3.45	Nil	Nil
1954	12	3.00	Nil	Nil
1955	18	4.15	Nil	Nil

Stillbirths.—The table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Stillbirths.			Rate per 1,000 Births.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.		DARWEN.	ENGLAND AND WALES.
1946	11	Nil	11	21	0.37	0.53
1947	14	2	16	27	0.53	0.50
1948	12	Nil	12	24	0.39	0.42
1949	14	Nil	14	30	0.45	0.39
1950	17	Nil	17	39	0.54	0.37
1951	12	1	13	28	0.40	0.36
1952	11	3	14	33	0.45	0.35
1953	16	1	17	35	0.55	0.35
1954	13	Nil	13	31	0.42	0.36
1955	3	Nil	3	7	0.09	0.35

Deaths.—The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 464, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 14.0.

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales:—

Year.	DARWEN.		ENGLAND AND WALES. Rate per 1,000.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	
1946	496	16.6	11.5
1947	486	16.0	12.0
1948	461	14.9	10.8
1949	525	14.6	11.7
1950	489	13.91	11.6
1951	571	16.4	12.5
1952	473	13.6	11.3
1953	438	12.7	11.4
1954	493	14.8	11.3
1955	464	14.0	11.7

The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar-General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents. The information does not include non-civilian deaths:—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	5	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	11	4	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	10	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	8	8
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	19	17	36
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	—	1	1
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	22	40	62
Coronary Disease, Angina	44	18	62
Hypertension with Heart Disease	11	13	24
Other Heart Disease	35	43	78
Other Circulatory Disease	11	18	29
Influenza	2	2	4
Pneumonia	6	5	11
Bronchitis	13	11	24
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	3	7
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	—	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	5	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	—	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	2	2
Congenital Malformations	—	4	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	15	13	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	3	5
All other Accidents	6	6	12
Suicide	3	2	5
Homicide and Operations of War	2	—	2
Totals	226	238	464

General Provisions of Health Services.

A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Ultra-Violet Light Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services.—Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home in the former Darwen Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bull Hill.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake all Public Health laboratory work for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Government scheme now being officially carried out in this area by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following table, which includes particulars of Darwen cases notified and accepted, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from infectious diseases. The so-called minor infectious diseases, other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the table, as they are not notifiable in Darwen and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

Disease.	Cases Notified and Accepted										Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.									Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Un- der 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over			
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	25	...	3	8	9	5	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles (excluding Rubella)	509	17	139	169	177	2	1	4	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	25	2	8	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal)	10	...	...	1	2	...	1	2	3	1	1	4	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	4	...
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	5	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	...
Non-Paralytic	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Encephalitis: Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	98	2	12	28	25	5	2	17	5	2	...	4	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Malaria— Contracted in: England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	324	1	2	6	...	261	32	...	19	3	...	8	...
Totals	1007	23	165	220	225	273	37	30	28	6	1	44	...

The following table gives the comparative incidence of infectious diseases during the past five years:—

Disease.	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	75	86	108	120	25
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	15	59	1	...	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever .....	...	1	...	...	1
Measles (excluding Rubella) .	340	473	30	664	509
Whooping Cough	76	41	186	93	25
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal) ..	23	18	25	21	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	3	19	5
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	1	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic .....	...	...	2	...	5
Non-Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious .....	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	157	...	3	30	98
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas	6	2	2	1	1
Malaria—					
Contracted in:					
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad	1	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	..	10	1	324
Totals	699	681	371	950	1007

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions, and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease, during 1955:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—5 .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 .....	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20—25	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
55—65	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65—75 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	6	6	1	6	1	...	...	...
	12		7		1		...	

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1946	7	7	3	2	19
1947	23	5	13	8	49
1948	15	8	8	10	41
1949	6	12	5	2	25
1950	15	13	4	6	38
1951	12	14	3	4	33
1952	11	10	2	3	26
1953	9	2	7	5	23
1954	5	6	—	2	13
1955	6	6	1	6	19

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 & 1951 SECTION 47.

One person was dealt with under this Section.

PART II.
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area
(including Public Cleansing)

Housing, and

Inspection and Supervision of Food

BY

E. P. McGLYNN, Esq., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Etc.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

Reservoirs.—Water is supplied on the constant system from the following reservoirs Sunnyhurst Hey, Earnsdale and Bull Hill, of which the first two are open, and the last closed. All the water is from moorland gathering grounds. Water in the Bull Hill Reservoir is supplied from Bolton. Two supplementary water supplies are also available when required from a borehole in the centre of the town and a mineshaft at Eccleshill piped to Sunnyhurst Reservoir.

Purification.—All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

Supply.—The approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied direct is 10,207.

SAMPLING.

Chemical.—Three samples of water from public supplies, and one sample from a private supply were submitted for analysis during the year. All were satisfactorily reported upon.

Bacteriological.—Nineteen samples of drinking water from four private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Six samples were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst thirteen samples were unsatisfactorily reported upon.

Further samples of these supplies are being taken periodically. Users are advised on precautionary measures.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODA- TION.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:—

Pails	136
Water Closets	12,065
Waste Water Closets	1,275
Cesspools	1
Total	13,477

Conversions and Installations during 1955:—

New Water Closets fixed	129
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets	58
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets	0
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	0
Baths installed during the year	119
Urinals installed during the year	1
Waste Water Closets dismantled	1

Routine testing, inspection, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers continued within the limits of availability of staff, material and labour.

It is hoped that closet conversions, will gradually result in the total abolition of the 1,275 waste water closets.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river is still somewhat polluted by industrial waste effluents, though rather less than in previous years. In addition there is a certain amount of material dumped in the river by children and careless householders.

The river is frequently inspected and every effort made to prevent pollution wherever the sources are discoverable.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of houses visited	404
Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932)	61
Number of inspections of Schools	6
Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces	21
Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel	12
Number of inspections of Bakehouses	0
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	2
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips	112
Complaints received and investigated	424
Number of re-inspections made	1,848
Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases) ...	59
Number of rooms disinfected	98
Number of smoke observations taken	3
Number of drains, etc., tested	238
Total number of defects discovered	807
Informal notices served	807
Statutory notices served	90
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year	1,951

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains	84
Choked and Defective Sewers	1
Defective soilpipes and water closets	13
Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls	54
Defective plastering	72
Defective Roofs and Damp Walls	78
Dirty houses and Premises	0
Dangerous buildings	1
Dirty and dilapidated closets	37
Accumulations of refuse	0
Defective or uneven gullies	12
Insanitary sinks	2
Defective fire ranges	21
Broken slop-pipes	4

Defective Flushing Cisterns	1
Defective tippers of waste water closets	0
Choked waste water closets	45
Choked water closets	37
Insanitary yards	9
Defective internal floors	38
Insufficient ventilation	22
Burst water pipes	7
Defective wash boilers	1
*Miscellaneous nuisances	210

* The Miscellaneous Nuisances include such items as defective pointing, defective woodwork of doors, defective pointing and putty around windows, etc.

SHOPS.

Routine inspections are made and special inspections as occasion requires, but pressure of other work especially housing has limited visitation far below the level regarded as desirable.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Three smoke observations were taken during the year, and advice and instruction to stokers on firing and use of fuel, to secure as far as possible the prevention of black or heavy smoking, were given. One of the main difficulties encountered in efforts towards smoke abatement is the variable quality and grade of the fuel supplied to manufacturers, who have little or no choice in particular supplies.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year eighty-two houses were found to be infested (three houses infested with bugs and seventy-nine houses infested with other vermin). All of these had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following are established in the district:—Two tripe boilers, one fat extractor, and one fat melter.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL.

This is the only common lodging house in the town and is municipally owned and managed. The average daily number of lodgers for the year was—Males, 117.94; Females, 13.32.

FACTORIES.

Twenty-one routine and special visits were paid to factories with and without mechanical power during the year for purposes of the provisions as to health. Defects found (chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences) were notified to occupiers and by the end of the year were either completed or in hand. Pressure of other work still reduces routine visiting far below the level considered desirable.

As previously, the fullest co-operation was maintained between the Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

**CHIEF
SANITARY
REQUIREMENTS
OF THE
DISTRICT.**

The chief sanitary requirements of the district are:—

The conversion of pail and waste water closets;

The paving, culverting, embanking and, as far as possible, purification of the river;

The clearance of derelict and neglected sites;

The paving of back streets and unmade roads;

The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification and protection of the remainder ;

The conversion of latrine closets at factories.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The whole of this important sanitary service is under the control of the Public Health Department. It comprises the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse and the cleansing of streets.

VEHICLES.

The refuse collection and disposal service is completely mechanised, the tractor-drawn trailer tank for nightsoil collection being now in use for one day per week.

**REFUSE
COLLECTION.**

Reference was made in a recent Annual Report to the great difficulties experienced by the Department in keeping the refuse collection frequency at a reasonable level during the winter months. Full particulars were given there of the various factors which have arisen during the past 20 years which affect the position. These factors do not change with the passage of time and the Cleansing Committee has under active consideration various expedients to improve collection frequency.

**REFUSE
DISPOSAL.**

The system of controlled tipping continues to prove very successful. The Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip is the only one now in use. It is situated near the Southern boundary of the Borough which makes the length of haul from the Northern half somewhat excessive. It is hoped to find a suitable tip-site nearer the centre of the town in order to lessen this.

SALVAGE.

The pre-separation of salvable material from household refuse is still conscientiously carried out by the bulk of householders.

The following is a summary of the materials sold during the year:—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Clean Waste Papers	320	15
Ferrous Metals—Baled Tins	Nil	Nil
„ „ Black Scrap	23	16
Non-Ferrous Metals	0	3
Textiles—Rags, Carpets	12	13½
Waste Foods—Pigswill (after boiling)	192	10
„ „ Household Bones	0	12½
	—	—
Total	550	10
	—	—

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £3,384.

The price of waste paper and container waste dropped slightly towards the end of the year, but so far there has been no difficulty in disposal. The former salvage depot in the old destructor works yard has now been closed, apart from the waste food plant, and a large Nissen type hut sited at Bull Hill Tip has replaced it.

SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1955. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse to Tip (4,545 loads)	7272	0	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (284 loads) ...	426	0	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse)	405263		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse)	17916		
Excreta		98	Loads
Excreta Pails Emptied	2828		
Sludge from Street Gullies		212	Loads
Street Gullies Emptied	14258		
Sweepings: Bins from Street Orderly Trucks	4902		
Dust Bins added during the year	69		
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles	12646		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper .	3097	Miles	

HOUSING.

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	56
(i) By local authority	56
(ii) By other local authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	3
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	56
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above)	0
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	211
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	285
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932	61
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	71
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	44
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	170
2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	18

STATISTICS
(continued).

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	28
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By local authority in default of owners ..	11
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
*(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	10
*Six of these houses were demolished by the owners in consequence of Sec. 53 Orders, and three were demolished informally by owners.	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
(e) Action under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879 (See note on Page 27)	
(1) Number of Houses to which orders were applied	38
(f) Houses closed informally by owners	5

STATISTICS
(continued).

4.	Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—	
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	0
	(ii) Number of persons dwelling therein	0
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	0
5.	Housing Act, 1949-54.	
(a)	(i) Number of schemes submitted—	
	(a) By private individuals to Local Authority	34
	(b) By Local Authority to Ministry	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	34
(b)	(i) Number of schemes approved—	
	(a) Of private individuals	31
	(b) Of the Local Authority	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	31
	(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings provided	3

OVERCROWDING.

“Overcrowding” as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding is fairly common in two-bedroomed houses, but is gradually being reduced.

OVER DARWEN IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1879.

Orders under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879, were made against thirty-eight houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, attaching a penalty to their continued letting. Eighteen of these were vacated by the end of the year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief difficulty in housing work is the inability to secure extensive repairs by informal action with the result that statutory procedure has to be invoked with all the additional work and time involved.

It is perhaps worthy of note here that since 1949 the Corporation have taken over 28 houses at the request of owners, in discharge of debt for default repair works under Section 9 of the Housing Act. Four of these houses are included in Housing or Industrial Redevelopment Areas contemplated during the next ten years.

A further 88 houses of varying types and sizes have been acquired by the Corporation at the instance of, and by agreement with, the owners, of which 17 are in Housing or Industrial Redevelopment Schemes. They have all been or are to be repaired, the 17 patch-repaired, the remaining 71 fully repaired.

Inspection, survey and repair proceeded steadily throughout the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SAMPLING MILK.

Biological.—Twenty-nine samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. Twenty-five were reported as negative, but no result was obtained in the case of the remaining four samples.

Bacteriological.—Thirty-one samples were examined during the year. Thirteen were satisfactorily reported upon, and eighteen were unsatisfactorily reported upon. The reports were passed on for appropriate action to the County Agricultural Officer.

In addition, at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health's and Education Departments 10 samples of Milk Powder from consignments held by the County Education Department in this Division were bacteriologically examined with negative results.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK—See Tables I and II below.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1942, in pursuance of a Ministry of Food Scheme for further centralising slaughtering.

Butchers' and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and premises used for the preparation of human food are regularly inspected.

The amount of food examined, certified unfit, and either destroyed or utilised after sterilisation for animal feeding-stuffs, was as shown in Table III on Page 31.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of unsound food during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The Local Authority, by direction of the Minister, is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Public Analyst whose advice and help are always available and much valued.

The quality of the food sold in the district is generally good.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF OTHER FOODS—See Table I.

TABLE 1—SAMPLES REPORTED GENUINE

No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.
17	Milk	17	...
1	Pork Sausage	1	...
3	Whisky	3	...
2	Rum	2	...
1	Brandy	1	...
1	Shredded Beet Suet .....	...	1
1	Wheatmeal Loaf .....	...	1
1	Margarine .....	...	1
1	Fresh Double Cream .....	...	1
1	Butter Snaps .....	...	1
1	Steak Pudding .....	...	1
1	Butter Toffee .....	...	1
1	Chicken in Jelly .....	...	1
1	Turkey Snacks .....	...	1
1	Treacle Toffee .....	...	1
1	Korpusdoon Health Tonic ...	...	1
1	Rose Hip and Orange .....	...	1
1	Sanatogen Tonic Wine .....	...	1
1	Buttered Brazils .....	...	1
1	Peanut Butter .....	...	1
1	Potted Salmon Paste .....	...	1
1	Real Minced Chicken .....	...	1
1	Milk Loaf .....	...	1
3	Chocolate .....	...	3

TABLE II—SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE

Cons. No.	No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.	Result.	Action taken.
1	1	Sunfresh Orange Drink	...	x	Orange content not more than 18 per cent.	The manufacturers were communicated with.

**TABLE III—SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD
CONDEMNED DURING 1955**

Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food.
109 tins	Assorted Fruit	13 tins	Assorted Meats	12	Chickens
28 tins	Ox Tongues	51 tins	Vegetables	1 Pkt.	Chocolate
6 tins	Luncheon Meat	3 tins	Soup	2 boxes	Cheese Spread
21 tins	Corned Beef	38 tins	Evaporated Milk	2 jars	Preserves
10 tins	Boiled Ham	2 tins	Cream	1½ cwts.	Split Peas
1 tin	Liver	3 tins	Cream of Rice	3½ lbs.	Tongue

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Investigation and disinfestation proceeded steadily throughout the year, and it has become increasingly obvious that the initial survey and co-ordinated treatments, and especially the comprehensive and radical treatment of the sewers, have reduced to a low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for nine years, and it is expected that regular re-survey, sewer maintenance treatment and block control, will keep it there or still further reduce it.

The following table gives a summary of the work done throughout the year—

No. of premises inspected.	No. of premises found infested.	No. of treatments carried out.	Estimated kill of rats.	Cumulative total of rats killed since inception of service.
	Killed	prior to January, 1955		16,058
546 (including 88 Hen Pens.)	133	Full Test 133 58	1,900	17,958

SEWER TREATMENTS.

Date.	No. of manholes treated.	Estimated kill.
May	473	749
November	421	627

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